

CHAPTER VI: PUBLIC SAFETY



Ambulance at Fire Station #19 on Vance Jackson



Graffiti in the Planning Area

This chapter contains goals and objectives for improving the community's safety and addressing criminal activity. Priorities are placed on community awareness and police involvement, stopping or abating graffiti, and improving emergency services.

Goal 11: Crime Prevention

Improve the well being of the community by decreasing prevalent criminal activity through neighborhood education, involvement, and visible patrols

Objective 11.1: Community Education and Involvement

Organize and educate the community to promote safe neighborhoods and prevent crime in coordination with the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD)

Action Steps:

11.1.1 Educate the community about crime prevention

- Contact the local SAPD Crime Prevention Specialist (Prue Substation or Central Substation) to arrange for Crime Prevention Presentations at neighborhood association meetings and for other community group and organization meetings. SAPD Crime Prevention Presentations include: Robbery Prevention, Personal Safety, Shoplifting Prevention, and Senior Citizen Safety.
- Work with SAPD and SAFFE Officers to distribute educational literature in both English and Spanish to the community

<i>Timeline:</i>	Immediate and Ongoing
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Planning Area Neighborhood Associations
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	SAPD Crime Prevention Specialists, SAFFE Officers
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Programs Funded by the SAPD

11.1.2 Advertise and encourage resident and business owner participation in SAPD crime prevention programs

- Through community meetings and literature distribution educate residents about SAPD's Home Safety Surveys for crime prevention and encourage such inspections in area homes, especially those in high-risk crime areas
- Encourage area business owners to participate in the Commercial Business Security Survey program offered by the SAPD

- Advertise and educate community vehicle owners about SAPD's HEAT (Help End Auto Theft) program and encourage residents to register their vehicles with this program

Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing
Lead Partner: Planning Area Neighborhood Associations
Proposed Partnerships: SAPD
Proposed Funding Sources: Programs Funded by the SAPD

11.1.3 Promote existing Good Neighbor (Neighborhood Watch) and Cellular on Patrol programs and encourage new programs in areas currently not served

- Through community meetings and speakers educate residents on the SAPD's Good Neighbor and Cellular on Patrol programs and the benefits of participation – encourage every block that is currently not served to establish these programs
- Contact SAFFE Officers to arrange for a Good Neighbor and Cellular on Patrol program to be started in areas that have interest in participating

Timeline: Short (1 - 2 years)
Lead Partner: Planning Area Neighborhood Associations
Proposed Partnerships: SAPD, SAFFE Officers
Proposed Funding Sources: Programs funded by the SAPD



Good Neighbor Program sign

11.1.4 Promote community participation in the San Antonio Park Police's Park Watch Program

- Schedule a Park Watch Program presentation at neighborhood association meetings to enroll residents in this program which encourages residents to monitor and report safety issues in the community's parks
- Invite Community Operations/ Resource Education (C.O.R.E) officers from the Park Police to neighborhood association meetings to make public safety presentations that identify community concerns and quality of life issues while reducing the fear of crime

Timeline: Short (1 - 2 years)
Lead Partner: Planning Area Neighborhood Associations
Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks & Recreation
Proposed Funding Sources: Programs Funded by COSA Parks & Recreation

11.1.5 Expand community participation in National Night Out

- Coordinate among Planning Area Neighborhood Associations to ensure that all sectors of the Planning Area are able to participate
- Actively advertise National Night Out events through brochures and signage, enlisting the help of local churches, schools, and community organizations

<i>Timeline:</i>	Short (1 - 2 years) and Ongoing
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Planning Area Neighborhood Associations
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	Local Churches, Schools, Community Organizations
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Neighborhood Association Funds, Volunteers



A neighborhood National Night Out celebration

11.1.6 Educate area business owners concerning City Public Service's (CPS) All-Night Security Light Program

- CPS leases several types of outdoor lights – leased outdoor lights are installed and maintained by CPS, while the customer pays a small monthly charge included in the electric bill
- CPS customers interested in outdoor lighting may request a free survey of their premises, which includes an on-site consultation with a CPS representative concerning the type of lighting, location, additional facilities necessary and monthly rate (call CPS to arrange free survey)
- Inform residents and business owners about this program through neighborhood association meetings and distributed literature

<i>Timeline:</i>	Immediate and Ongoing
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Plan Implementation Team
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	CPS, Planning Area Neighborhood Associations
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Neighborhood Association Funds, Volunteers

Objective 11.2: Community and SAPD Relations

Increase positive community interaction with the SAPD

Action Steps:

11.2.1 Enroll neighborhood and community leaders in SAPD's Citizen Police Academy

- The goal of the Citizen Police Academy (CPA) is to educate San Antonio citizens about the structure and activities of their police department. The CPA class is not a "training" class, but rather an information class, a behind-the-scenes look at the SAPD. The CPA program believes informed and educated citizens will be more supportive of police officers and the department and more productive within their own neighborhoods and communities.
- The 11-week CPA course meets one night each week for 3 hours. Topics covered in the CPA class include SAPD organization and structure, cadet recruiting and training, divisions of the SAPD, plus hands-on workshops in areas such as Tactics, Fingerprinting and Firearms Safety.

Timeline: Short (1 - 2 years)
Lead Partner: Planning Area Neighborhood Associations
Proposed Partnerships: SAPD
Proposed Funding Sources: Programs Funded by the SAPD

11.2.2 Develop closer relationships between the community and local SAPD officials

- Frequently invite SAFTE Officers to community meetings
- Where possible request for an increased and more visible police presence in the area

Timeline: Short (1 - 2 years) and Mid (3 - 5 years)
Lead Partner: Plan Implementation Team
Proposed Partnerships: Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, SAFTE Officers
Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer

Objective 11.3: Gang Prevention

Improve the safety of the neighborhood through gang prevention programs aimed at youth and community awareness

Action Steps:

11.3.1 Work with the SAPD to explore the appropriateness and eligibility of a gang injunction “safety zone” in the community

- Injunctions are civil court orders that bar alleged gang members who have been served with injunction notices from participating in 30 specific activities (including street fighting, having aerosol paint, and using cell phones in public places for illegal purposes) within a “safety zone.”
- Gang injunctions are used in areas with rapidly increasing gang activity

<i>Timeline:</i>	Short (1 - 2 years)
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Plan Implementation Team
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, SAPD
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Minimal/Volunteer

11.3.2 Work with SAPD to start GREAT (Gang and Drug Resistance) programs in the Planning Area

<i>Timeline:</i>	Short (1 - 2 years)
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Plan Implementation Team
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, SAPD
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Minimal/Volunteer

11.3.3 Contact school districts to discuss after school activities, especially those aimed at gang prevention, that area schools could offer and that the community can promote

- Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows (START) is a long-term, intensive case management program operated by COSA Community Initiatives for high-risk youth identified by their school principal

- Urban smARTS is an after-school art enrichment program operated by COSA Community Initiatives in coordination with San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD)

Timeline: Short (1 - 2 years)
Lead Partner: Plan Implementation Team
Proposed Partnerships: Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, COSA Community Initiatives, SAISD, Northeast Independent School District (NEISD)
Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer

11.3.4 Contact SAFFE and the SAPD gang detail to explore the possibility of additional patrols and enforcement

Timeline: Immediate
Lead Partner: Plan Implementation Team
Proposed Partnerships: Planning Area Neighborhood associations, SAFFE Officers, SAPD
Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer

11.3.5 Coordinate with SAFFE and SAPD to obtain speakers for Planning Area Neighborhood Association meetings who can educate residents on gang indicators and gang prevention

Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing
Lead Partner: Planning Area Neighborhood Associations
Proposed Partnerships: Other Community Organizations, SAFFE Officers, SAPD
Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer

Objective 11.4: Graffiti Prevention

Work as a community toward eliminating graffiti

Action Steps:

11.4.1 Work with SAFFE officers, Good Neighbor groups, and Cellular on Patrol (COP) to increase surveillance of areas that are frequent targets of graffiti

<i>Timeline:</i>	Short (1 - 2 years)
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Plan Implementation Team
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, SAFFE Officers
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Minimal/Volunteer



11.4.2 Work with school districts to encourage area elementary schools to start the “Graffiti Hurts” curriculum

- Develops in students a sense of respect and responsibility for their surroundings and helps them understand why graffiti is harmful to them, their neighborhood, and their community
- School districts can obtain this curriculum through Keep San Antonio Beautiful

<i>Timeline:</i>	Short (1 - 2 years) and Ongoing
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Plan Implementation Team
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, SAISD, NEISD, Area Elementary Schools, Keep San Antonio Beautiful
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Minimal/Volunteer, Public Funding (School Districts) to Purchase Curriculum

11.4.3 Invite staff from the Graffiti Wipeout Program (COSA Public Works) to speak at neighborhood association meetings concerning graffiti prevention and abatement

<i>Timeline:</i>	Short (1 - 2 years)
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Plan Implementation Team
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, COSA Public Works
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Minimal/Volunteer



11.4.4 Distribute literature to the community concerning graffiti prevention and abatement

- Include numbers to call for reporting graffiti and how to become involved in graffiti clean-up
- Encourage residents and business owners to report all incidents of graffiti
- Include numbers for the following agencies that clean up graffiti on their property and facilities: COSA Public Works (use 311), COSA Parks & Recreation, Bexar County, City Public Service (CPS), San Antonio Water System (SAWS), VIA Metro Transit, and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)



Graffiti in the Planning Area

Timeline: Short (1 – 2 years)

Lead Partner: Plan Implementation Team

Proposed Partnerships: Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, COSA Public Works, COSA Parks & Recreation, Bexar County, CPS, SAWS, VIA Metro Transit, TxDOT

Proposed Funding Sources: Neighborhood Association Funds for Literature Production and Distribution

11.4.5 Encourage business owners and residents to keep graffiti-prone areas well lit and to plant trees or other greenery near graffiti-plagued walls

Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing

Lead Partner: Plan Implementation Team

Proposed Partnerships: Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, Planning Area Business Owners

Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer

11.4.6 Work with the COSA Environmental Services to organize paint-outs with local community groups

- Planning Area Neighborhood Associations should take the lead in organizing a paint-out
- Encourage church groups and other community organizations to also organize paint-outs as part of their public service outreach programs

- Obtain free paint from the City's Paint Bank – 7030 Culebra. The facility is open on Thursday, Friday, and 1st Saturday of every month. The paint comes in 5-gallon buckets and the community can take as much paint as it needs (but the facility will NOT accept any returns of excess paint). Available colors usually include tan, blue and gray, but special requests for additional colors can sometimes be arranged by contacting the facility.

<i>Timeline:</i>	Short (1 - 2 years) and Ongoing
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Plan Implementation Team
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, COSA Environmental Services, Church Groups and Other Community Organizations
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Minimal/Volunteer

11.4.7 Coordinate with area schools and other community groups and the Office of Cultural Affairs to paint community murals

- The Office of Cultural Affairs offers free one-hour mural workshops
- Murals beautify the neighborhood, deter graffiti, and enhance community pride

<i>Timeline:</i>	Short (1 - 2 years) and Ongoing
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Plan Implementation Team
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, COSA Office of Cultural Affairs, Area Schools, Community Groups
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Minimal/Volunteer



Example of a community mural

11.4.8 Encourage area businesses to cooperate with COSA Parks & Recreation's corridor graffiti removal efforts

- COSA Parks and Recreation removes graffiti along 20 designated street corridors or "hot spots" on a rotational basis using volunteer and restitution volunteer labor. West Avenue and Blanco Road are two of these designated "hot spots."

- If granted permission by businesses, COSA Parks and Recreation will remove graffiti from businesses along these corridors as well as work with business maintenance staff to continue clean-up between scheduled COSA Parks & Recreation graffiti removal clean-ups

Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing
Lead Partner: Plan Implementation Team
Proposed Partnerships: Businesses along West Ave and Blanco Rd, COSA Parks & Recreation
Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer

11.4.9 Encourage community participation in the City's Graffiti Wipeout Volunteer Day

- One day each year City personnel, citizens within each council district, and personnel from VIA Metro Transit, Bexar County, TxDOT, and other agencies volunteer for a citywide graffiti removal effort
- Graffiti Wipeout Volunteer Day projects involve public property only – call the coordinator (see the Graffiti Wipeout web page on the City of San Antonio website for number) to request that an area in the community be included as a project for Graffiti Wipeout Day

Timeline: Immediate Ongoing
Lead Partner: Plan Implementation Team
Proposed Partnerships: Planning Area Neighborhood Associations, COSA Public Works
Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer

Goal 12: Emergency Services

Increase community safety through improved emergency services equipment and facilities

Objective 12.1: Upgrade Fire Safety Equipment and Facilities

Expand and/or improve the two fire stations in the planning area

Action Steps:

12.1.1 Expand or rebuild Fire Station #19 to allow for newer, larger fire trucks and improve truck ingress and egress

- Work with the City of San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) to determine future plans for the station and identify areas in which the community can help secure funding for needed upgrades

<i>Timeline:</i>	Long (Over 5 years)
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Plan Implementation Team
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	SAFD
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Minimal/Volunteer, Public Funding for Fire Station Improvements



Fire Station #19

12.1.2 Provide community input to the SAFD during their annual update of the Five-Year Master Plan

<i>Timeline:</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead Partner:</i>	Plan Implementation Team
<i>Proposed Partnerships:</i>	SAFD
<i>Proposed Funding Sources:</i>	Minimal/Volunteer